

LIBRARY JOURNAL

This well-researched documentary examines the history of women in the film industry from the silent pictures through the talkies and into modern times. Host Jodie Foster introduces each segment, and from there we learn about the female leaders and barrier breakers, the creative minds and the clever supporters, the savvy businesswomen, and those who sparkled, then fizzled. Interview gems with pioneering artists are woven together with film clips from all over the world, telling the “reel herstory” in a fascinating and informative narrative. Interview subjects include Dede Allen, Gillian Armstrong, Martha Coolidge, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Lillian Gish, Fay Kanin, Sherry Lansing, Mala Powers, and Margarethe von Trotta, among many others. VERDICT Filmmaker Acker brings us a two-and-a-half-hour presentation that is three great films strung together. It is available in separate editions from [KanopyStreaming](#)—*The Silent Era*, *The Talkies*, and *Contemporary Reel Women*—Purchase and circulate this way if you’ve got an audience of film students or cinema lovers.